

September 26, 2002

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: Competitive Market Initiatives, D.T.E. 01-54-B

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

On July 29, 2002, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") issued an Order in the above-referenced proceeding. As part of that Order, the Department directed the "distribution companies to work with the EBT [Electronic Business Transactions] Working Group to investigate whether the Internet represents a reliable and economic alternative to VANs [value-added networks]." Order, p. 30. The Department directed the distribution companies to submit a report to the Department on this issue within two months of the Order [i.e., September 29, 2002]. *Id.*

The distribution companies (Boston Edison Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company, Commonwealth Electric Company, Fitchburg Gas and Electric light Company, Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company) have been working diligently with the EBT Working Group on the feasibility of using the Internet as an alternative to VANs. These efforts have taken longer than anticipated, however, and are not completed. In addition, additional time will be required to prepare and finalize the report mandated by the Department. Accordingly, the distribution companies listed above respectfully request a two-month extension for the report, to December 1, 2002. This extension of time will allow the distribution companies to prepare a comprehensive document for the Department's review.

Please contact me or counsel for the other distribution companies should you have any questions with respect to this request. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Klionsky

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